



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer
Interim Director of Community and Senior Services
Director of Health Services

At its meeting held September 6, 2005, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

“As doctors have come to rely more and more on drug therapies to treat chronic health conditions, the amount of money patients spend on prescription drugs have increased significantly. As a result, many seniors who rely on Medicare as their primary health coverage have had difficulty keeping up with the costs associated with the drugs their doctors prescribe to them to stay healthy. I’m pleased to say that, beginning in January 2006, Medicare recipients will be offered insurance coverage for prescription drugs. While most recipients covered under Medicare will likely have to pay a monthly premium, those with limited income and resources could receive this coverage free of cost.

“Medicare has developed several prescription drug plans for seniors to choose from, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services has initiated an ambitious Nationwide outreach effort, to ensure that all Medicare recipients have all the information they need to choose a prescription drug plan that works best for them.

“I believe that we should do all we can to ensure that Medicare recipients in this County – especially seniors – have access to the information they need on this very important issue.”

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Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to work with the Director of Health Services and the Interim Director of Community and Senior Services, in consultation with 211 LA County, to ensure that 211 operators have all appropriate information available and on hand to assist seniors effectively with the prescription drug benefit program to be offered to Medicare recipients in January 2006;
2. Instructed the Director of Health Services and the Interim Director of Community and Senior Services to work with the United States Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the County Commission on Aging, to explore further ways of enhancing outreach to seniors about the Medicare prescription drug plan; and
3. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer, the Director of Health Services and the Interim Director of Community and Senior Services to provide a report back to the Board within 45 days as to progress made.

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